Massachusetts Volunteer Dam Assessment Form

Date: Names of surveyors: 1 of 2

DAM LOCATION INFORMATION: Upstream feature or street name: Owner (circle one): Private Town State Dam Name River	Downstream feature or street name: Owner Name Impoundment Name Watershed
Town	Municipality
Coordinates: Latitude/UTM Northing	

DAM STRUCTURE & HISTORIC RESOURCES	
Is the dam structure or any of the associated structures of historic interest? UN / N / Y Explain	
What are the current uses of the dam? hydropower flood control recreation fish & wildlife habitat water supply none Other/Explain	
Are there canoe access points, docks, boat ramps or other infrastructure visible in the upstream impoundment?	
Can you safely portage around the dam? UN / N / Y	
Is there canoe/fishing access below the dam? UN / N / Y	
Have there been recent drawdowns? When?	
<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<	
Dam is constructed of: Rock Masonry Wood Concrete Earth-fill Other	
(Estimate) Structural Height Hydraulic Height Spillway Length	
Condition of the dam and operational features: Which of the following features are present at the dam site: (Circle) Spillway Embankments Retaining walls Low-Level Outlet Flash Boards Raceway/canal Emergency spillway Rip-Rap Road or Trail on Dam	
Do any of the above dam features have one or more of the following problems: (Circle) Leaks Cracks Holes Erosion Tree or plant growth Animal activity	
Describe the overall condition and note location of any problems:	

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Downstream Conditions	
Are any of the following present direct	ly downstream of the dam? (within sight)
Retaining walls	Roads
Rip-rap	Bridges
Erosion/scour	Buildings
Fill	Culverts
Wetlands	Pipes crossing stream
Animal activity (beaver dams)	Other
Other dams or impoundments	
Is there flow alteration due to	the structure or operation of the dam? Describe:
<<<<<<<<<<	<<<<<<<<<<<<

Definitions

Drawdown: When the level of water in the impoundment is purposely lowered for management purposes. Breached Structure: When the dam has been compromised to the extent that water passes freely through the structure or when part or most of the dam structure has been removed.

Spillway: Area of dam with cascading water.

Embankment: Earthen area holding back water and connecting spillway to stream banks.

Structural Height: Height from stream channel below dam to highest point on dam structure.

Hydraulic Height: Height from stream channel to the top of the spillway.

Low level outlet: Area of the dam that can be opened if the impoundment lowers beyond the spillway.

Flash Boards: Often used in the low level outlet or spillway to regulate the level of impoundment and flow.

Raceway/Canal: Bypass through a structure, such as a mill, with flowing water.

Emergency Spillway: Secondary spillway at a higher elevation that is used during high flow.